

U.S. Serial No. 09/891,064
Docket No. 26068-08D

Examiner: P. Nolan
Art Unit: 1644

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 27-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 27-32 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims in view of the amendments made above and remarks to follow is respectfully requested.

Turning first to formal matters, the Examiner has requested that Applicant update the status of the continuity data on the first page of the specification. In response, Applicant has amended the first page of the specification to reflect the updated status of the continuity data.

Next, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that the claims as amended find no support in the originally filed specification or claims. The Examiner suggested that Applicants consider amending the claims to recite "an isolated and purified human occludin fragment." In response, Applicants have amended claims 1-3 and 27-32 to incorporate the suggestion of the Examiner and believe that the claims, as presently amended, are fully supported by the originally filed specification and are thus now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 27-32 as failing to comply with the written description requirement is respectfully requested.

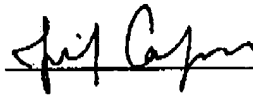
Applicants believe that the foregoing is a complete response to the office action and respectfully request favorable consideration and that claims 1-3 and 27-32, which constitute all of the claims of this application, be passed to allowance.

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If the Examiner has any questions regarding this response, he is requested to contact the undersigned at 203-575-2648 for a telephone interview prior to the issuance of the next office action.

Respectfully submitted,



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